

CRAVEN SPATIAL PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

(Online)

22 September 2020

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors, Brockbank, Myers, Pringle Shuttleworth, Rose.

Officers – Interim Legal Services Manager, Strategic Manager, Strategic Housing Manager, Planning Manager, Planning Officer (Planning Policy Team), Planning Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.35pm

Finish: 8.23pm

Minutes – The minutes of the Sub-Committee's meeting held on 18th August 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Public Participation – The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer submitted a representation on behalf of Kate Jennings in relation to Item 7: Report on the MHCLG White Paper: Planning for the Future (August 2020).

Minutes for Report

CSP.181

CRAVEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE 2020

The Planning Officer presented a report which provided Members with the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2020. A timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan was approved by Policy Committee on 7 December 2017 which set out the timetable for the production of the Craven Local Plan and a number of Supplementary Planning Documents. Members noted that subsequent to the adoption of the Craven Local Plan in November 2019, the timetable now required an update to reflect both current and future planning policy work.

Members noted that at a Policy Committee meeting on 23 June 2020 it was agreed to revise the terms of reference for Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee, which included, the consideration and approval by the Sub-Committee of updates to the Local Development Scheme as they are required and prepared. Members also noted that the revised terms of reference allowed the Sub-Committee to consider the achievement of a Net Zero Carbon Craven by 2030 and the role that the Craven Local Plan plays in achieving it.

Members were informed that a Local Planning Authority is required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS must specify the development plan documents which when prepared and adopted, comprise part of the statutory development plan for the area. The updated Craven LDS set out the documents that form the development plan for the area of Craven outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park together with details relating to the preparation of the following Craven Local Plan documents: Supplementary Planning Documents, Statement of Community Involvement, Neighbourhood Plans, Monitoring of the Adopted Craven Local Plan (2012-2032) including details relating to updating the local plan evidence base, Authority Monitoring Report and Duty to Co-operate. Members noted that since the adoption of the Craven Local Plan, the Council's Spatial Planning Team had worked closely with the Council's Development Management Team to ensure that the Policies of the adopted local plan were implemented as intended, including the delivery of the development principles identified within policies SP5-SP11 for housing, employment and mixed use site allocations.

Members were reminded that the government had recently published proposals for significant reform of the planning system in the White Paper: Planning for the Future (August 2020), which

included proposals relating to plan making and spatial planning, including, in terms of decision-making and public engagement, a shift in emphasis towards spatial planning and away from development management. Final plans for reform would be sent out in legislation and policy changes brought forward by the government following public consultation. The impact of the final reforms on the programme of spatial planning work could be reflected in subsequent updates to the LDS, once known.

Members raised several questions in relation to housing and employment land which included suggestions such as conducting a review of land owned by Craven District Council and the potential of releasing it for employment which were addressed by the Strategic Manager.

Resolved – That, the updated Local Development Scheme 2020 is approved for publication.

CSP.182

REPORT ON THE MHCLG CONSULTATION 'CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM' (AUGUST 2020)

The Planning Officer presented a report which sought Members approval of the officer comments as the basis for the Council's response to the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system. Members were informed that on 6 August 2020 the Government published two consultation documents on the planning system. One was the White Paper which proposed a fundamental and comprehensive reform of the planning system that required new legislation and regulations to be introduced. The changes, if approved, would take time to enact and become operational. The other Government consultation document proposed changes to national planning policy which could be introduced quicker through amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework, the Planning Practise Guidance and the publication of ministerial statements. Members noted that previously the Council had responded to similar consultations through officer comments only, but in this case, it was felt that Members would wish to discuss matters arising.

The Planning Officer provided an overview of the officer comments on the Government consultation document 'Changes to the current planning system'. The consultation set out proposals for measures which the Government stated would improve the effectiveness of the current planning system. Members noted the four main proposals which were changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need, securing of First Homes through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system, supporting small and medium-sized builders by temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing and extending the current Permission in Principle to major development. For each of the proposals, the consultation document described the current situation as the Government saw it, the proposed approach or options for a new approach and asks for responses to detailed questions about its proposals. The Planning Officer briefly explained each officer comment on the summarised proposals. Members raised questions in relation to shared ownership and concern regarding the provision of housing which were addressed by the Strategic Housing Manager.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the officer comments are approved as the basis for Craven District Council's response to the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system.
- (2) That, delegated authority is granted to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration to use officer comments, as amended by the sub-committee's views, to respond to the consultation document, and forward to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government prior to the consultation deadline on 1 October 2020.
- (3) That, the officer comments presented to the Council's Policy Committee on 15 September 2020 and the input of this Committee will refine the Council's response to the Government's current consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system are noted.

CSP.183

**REPORT ON THE MHCLG WHITE PAPER: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
(AUGUST 2020)**

The Planning Officer presented a report which sought Members' approval of the officer comments as the basis for the Council's response to the Government's consultation on the White Paper: Planning for the Future. The White Paper: Planning for the Future was published on 6 August 2020 and proposed a fundamental reform of the planning system that required new legislation and regulations to be introduced. Members noted that Policy Committee would be asked to approve the officer comments as the basis for Craven District Council's response to the White Paper consultation. The Planning Officer summarised the White Paper proposals which included streamlining the planning process, a focus on design and sustainability and infrastructure delivery. For each of the proposed reforms, the White Paper described each proposal, set out alternative options for the proposals and asked for responses to questions in relation to each proposal. Members noted the officer comments regarding the White Paper consultation and thanked the Planning Officer for the succinct report. Members were concerned that the White Paper could detract from the local aspect of decision making in Planning.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the officer comments to be forwarded to the Policy Committee as the basis for the Council's response on the White Paper consultation, subject to paragraph 2.2. are noted.
- (2) That, the Council's proposed response on the White Paper consultation is presented to and settled by the Council's Policy Committee on 20 October 2020.

CSP.184

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 2020, to be confirmed.

Chairman.